First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"

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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

March 13, 2016 10:00 am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"In The Bulb There Is A Flower"** **150 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Hunter Turner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Hunter Turner

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Anthem** **"Amazing Grace"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Hunter Turner

Powerful God, we give thanks that you have called us to be your people. In our times of gloom you have sent your light. When we are weary and discouraged you lift us up. In our thirst for meaning and purpose, you bring us to living water in Jesus Christ. Set before us the joy of discovery and the vision of future possibilities as we work together in friendship with Christ as our center and our inspiration. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

***Hymn "Sing Praise, Sing Free, Sing Joy" 16 ES**

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Psalm 40:1-4** Hunter Turner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

New Testament **John 12:1-8** Hunter Turner

The Way of the Cross INSERT Hunter Turner

***Hymn** **"Lead Us from Death to Life"** **581 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Donna Eyster

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Donna Eyster

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Breath of Life,
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Your presence fills all of Creation.
May justice and mercy reign,
In our lives and in our world.
Today may our bellies be full,
Our hearts warm,
And our fellowship open.
May we reconcile with the people we've hurt,
Just as we reconcile with the people who've hurt us.
Lead us not into a time of trial,
But deliver us from evil.
For wherever grace and community abide,
There you are with us;
We are not alone.
Blessed be.

– by Chance Hunter (Used under Creative Commons license)
http://www.timesandseasons.net/2011/the-lords-prayer-an-alternate-version

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Donna Eyster

The most lavish gifts we can bring are never enough to thank God for all that we have received. Yet the tiniest of offerings we present does not escape God's notice when presented with full commitment and devotion. Let us give what we are able. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison)** Hunter Turner

Lord you are so gracious, and we are glad for all the good things you have done for us. Receive our best efforts, which we dedicate to your use. In Jesus' name we ask that you bless these offerings to your work here in your Creation. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"** **474 NCH**

***Benediction** Hunter Turner

One: The spirit of God sends us forth, a thankful people
God goes with us, accomplishing new things among us.
Many: We are God's chosen people, appointed for service.
May our lives proclaim our thanks and our praise.
One: The great things God has done for us inspire our work.
We stretch and strive to reach new goals.
Many: Day-by-day we listen for a new word from God;
hour-by-hour, we will dare to be faithful to God's call.
One: God will feed our hunger and quench our thirst
and will comfort us in our need and uplift us.
Many: God's praise will continually be on our lips.
We will embrace God's future as we seek to follow Christ.
And emulate His work.
Amen. **– Adapted From "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler**

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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Our Volunteers	Today: Mar 13th	Next Sunday: Mar 20th
Usher	Wayne Burling	Marty Kleino
Preaching	Hunter Turner	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Hunter Turner	Wayne Burling
Worship Set-up	Margaret Harner	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Wayne Burling	Hunter Turner
Friendship Time	Carol Hall	Margaret Harner
Sunday School	Anne Marie N-T	Tad Wysor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: Flowers will be used for Service on Easter, or you may pick up Fri. or Sat for delivery to others you may sell to. Plants that are here on Sunday should be picked up after worship. **Please order by March 20th .** Questions; contact Wayne Burling, 734-377-0696, *wburling@gmail.com*

EASTER BREAKFAST: Easter Breakfast will be Sunday March 27th before service at 8:30 am. Any questions contact Ivan Harner.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Our next Council meeting will be held tomorrow April 7, 2016 at 4:45 pm. All are welcome.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

NEW ADDRESS: Lorraine Sayles' new address; Orchard Hills Manor, 2139 Georgetown Blvd., Ann Arbor, 48105. Her phone number is the same as always (734) 483-3849.
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CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: A coalition of Open and Affirming United Church of Christ churches in Michigan. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

MENTOR 2 YOUTH: Mentor2Youth is a non-profit organization that provides educational services and programs to at-risk youth ages 8-18 in Washtenaw County. Since its inception in 2011, Mentor2Youth has served more than 450 youth by taking a wholistic approach towards their well-being. Our mission is to ensure these youth have a promising future through educating and empowering them to excel in life, academics and work. We envision developing a school-to-career pipeline for at-risk youth as our organization continues to become more sustainable and expands over the next five years.

Contact Alex Goldsmith (alexandriansnowden@gmail.com) or visit their website (http://www.mentor2youth.com) for more information.

About Halboor

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Armistad Sunday in the UCC

http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways_nlb_special-occassions_special-amistad-sunday

The Way of the Cross

Adapted from "Mary's Way of the Cross" from Sat. Isidore Parish in Yuba City, CA

The photos are the stained glass windows of St. Isidore's Church in Yuba City, CA. These windows also are utilized as the fourteen Stages of the Cross. Stations of the Cross refers to a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and also to the prayers Christians say when contemplating those images. Often a series of 14 images will be arranged in numbered order around a church nave or along a path, and the faithful travel from image to image, in order, stopping at each "station" (Latin: statio) to say the selected prayers and reflections.

Adapted by Carol Hall for use at First Congregational UCC, Ypsilanti, MI Lent 2016.

Worship Leader Station 1: Jesus Condemned	It was early Friday morning when I saw my son. That was the first glimpse I had of him since they took him away. His bruised skin caused great pain deep in my heart and brought tears to my eyes. And then Pilate passed judgment and all began to shout "Crucify, him!" I wanted to plead with them to stop but I knew this had to be so I stood by and cried silently.	
Many	**Lord Jesus, it is hard for me to imagine the anguish your mother felt at your condemnation. But what about today, when I hold a grudge? Should someone shout "Crucify" When I judge others? Should someone shout "Crucify" If this happened would I remember my Christian responsibilities…. Jesus, provide me strength to improve my weaknesses and to reduce anguish.**	
Worship Leader Station 2: Jesus Takes Up the Cross	Regaining a little strength, I walked with the crowds to the entrance of the square. A door flew open and my son stumbled out, the guards laughing behind him. Two men dragged over a heavy wooden cross and dropped it on his shoulders. I wanted to carry the cross for him, but I knew this had to be and so I walked on silently, praying.	
Many	**Jesus, forgive me for the times I have added more work to your day. I have closed my eyes to the pain and loneliness of my neighbor. I have gossiped about others and found excuses for those who needed them. Help me to be like Mary, always seeking to lighten the crosses that others bear.**	

Worship Leader Station 3: The First Fall	I followed as Jesus made progress up the road toward Calvary. Nothing hurt me more than to see him in such pain. And then he fell, and I held my breath but then he rose again. I wanted to protect him but I knew this had to be and so I wept silently and walked on.	
Many	**Lord, how often have I seen people make mistakes and laughed? How often do I find myself getting angry when someone does things differently or takes too long? Help me to try harder to support others. To silently walk with them providing support for them as they struggle with this burdens**.	
Worship Leader Station 4: Mother And Son	I had managed to break through the crowd and was walking beside my son. I called to him through the voices and he stopped. Our eyes met, I felt helpless and then his eyes said to me "Courage! There is a purpose for this." So I followed and prayed silently.	
Many	**Lord Jesus, forgive me the many times our eyes have met and I turned mine away. Help me remember that your eyes can be anywhere and in any face. Help me not to brood over little inconveniences or discouragements causing me to miss your call to courage! Your strength is always available and I will seek to find it.**	
Worship Leader Station 5: Helped By Simon	Each step looked to be his last. Then I noticed some commotion near Jesus and the guards making a man pick up the back of the cross to help lighten the load . Help us to remember to lighten the loads of others for that is as you taught us.	
Many	**Watch over me Lord and encourage my heart to help you. Keep me from being selfish, from remaining unmoved, help me to be like your mother, who was present and prayed unceasingly. Help me to be like Simon who stepped up and helped. To silently follow, to endlessly pray and to help lift the burdens of others when I can this is what I would like to be shown how to do! Amen.**	